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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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MARCH 21, 2007

A PERMANENT INCREASE TO 437 IS GOOD FOR ALL

*H.R. 1433 Gives D.C. a Vote in Congress
WITHOUT Jeopardizing Other Congressional Districts*

Dear Colleague:

The House is scheduled to consider this week the D.C. House Voting Rights Act of 2007 (H.R. 1433), legislation to extend voting representation in the House of Representatives to the residents of the Nation's Capital. In deciding how you will vote on this landmark legislation, two factors are important to keep in mind.

First, the addition of a seat for the District of Columbia – the most Democratic jurisdiction in the nation – is coupled with a seat for Utah, where President Bush won with his largest margin of victory in 2004. In other words, this legislation extends voting rights in the most politically neutral way possible.

Second, the legislation permanently increases the size of the House of Representatives from 435 to 437. The political reality of reducing the House to 435 after the 2010 Census was that we were tying the personal political fates of many Members to their vote on extending voting representation to the District of Columbia. With a temporary increase some Members could justifiably be concerned that they were ultimately giving their seat to the District of Columbia.

By making the increase permanent, any state that feels it may lose a seat after 2010 will be able to give their state another chance to hold that seat by supporting this legislation.

Everyone benefits by voting for the D.C. House Voting Rights Bill.

Sincerely,



Tom Davis